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Knee Infections

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V. B. Mayrose

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Pigs to Pork

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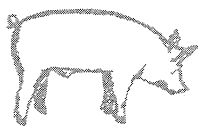
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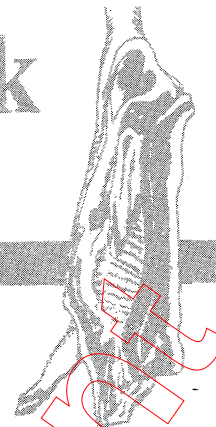
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Pigs to Pork



MANAGEMENT

Cooperative Extension Service PURDUE UNIVERSITY Lafayette, Indiana



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Knee Infections,

H. W. Jones, and V. B. Mayrose, Animal Sciences Department

Knee infections in baby pigs result when a sow and litter are kept on a floor that has a rough abrasivelike surface; generally this is concrete. Irrespective of the finish applied to most floors, an abrasive effect exists.

During the process of nursing and while becoming established on a particular mammary section, the newborn pig fighting with littermates can suffer damage to knees, hocks and the pads on the bottoms of his feet. If the newborn litter is observed frequently, this damage will be noticed.

Lameness, evidence of tenderness and actual sores result from the abrasive effect of the floor. These sores or skin openings provide pathogenic agents a real opportunity to enter the body. Infections may occur immediately or show up later in the pig's life.

To reduce the incidence of damage, the following steps may be taken:

(1) Clean concrete floors of the farrowing facility thoroughly to rid the area of the

caustic substance associated with newly poured floors.

(2) Paint rough surfaces with concrete block paints. Some producers are using epoxy paints and plastic asbestos materials. To economize, only the areas inhabited by the pig while nursing need to be painted. As a rough guide generally 1 gallon of paint is sufficient for the pig areas in 6 farrowing stalls.

(3) Choose the texture of bedding materials carefully. Both fine and soft bedding materials are helpful.

(4) If infections from abrasive damage are a serious problem, consider wooden overlays for a few days after pigs are born.

Keen observation at farrowing will quickly reveal if remedies for abrasive damage are worthy of consideration in your own facilities.

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